윤미경

Mi-Kyung Yun

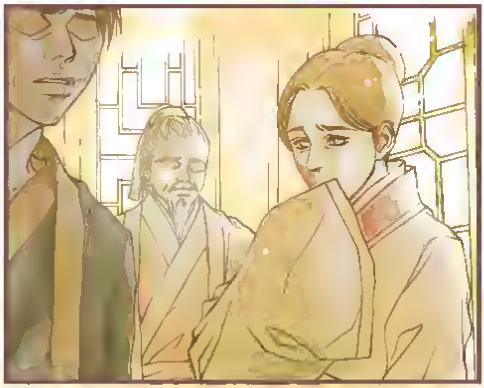
1

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

HONEY, I'M SO SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

THE SAD VOICE OF MY MOTHER...



...THE DAY WHEN DEPRESSION SWEPT THROUGH THE ENTIRE HOUSE...

...LIKE IT WAS A FUNERAL HOME.

MY WEDDING DAY.
BRIDE of the WATER GOD
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Philip Simon
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1
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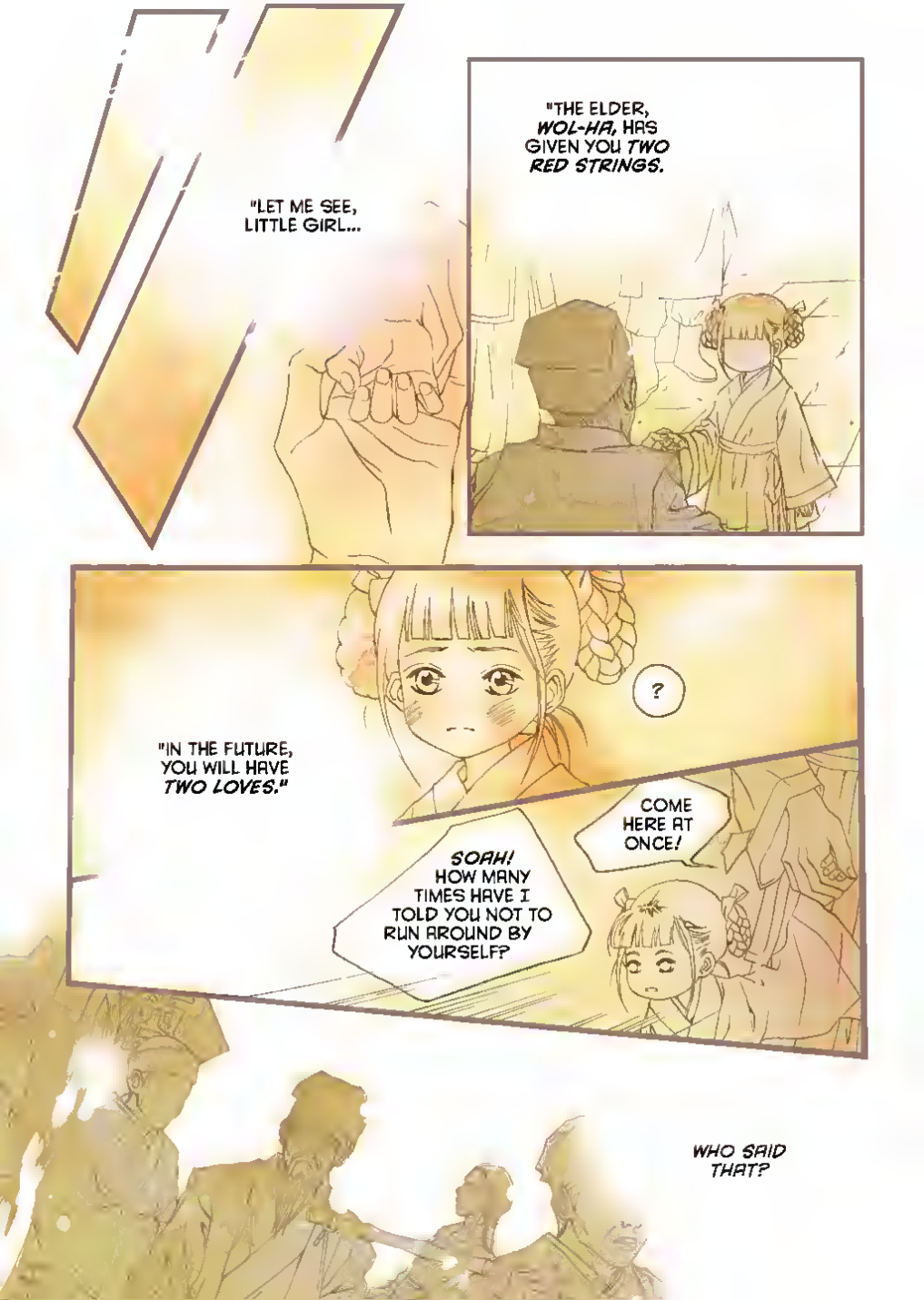

"LET ME SEE, LITTLE GIRL...
"THE ELDER, WOL-HA, HAS GIVEN YOU TWO RED STRINGS.
"IN THE FUTURE, YOU WILL HAVE TWO LOVES."
?
SOAH! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO RUN AROUND BY YOURSELF?
COME HERE AT ONCE!
WHO SAID THAT?

IS THAT CHILD THE BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD?
I HEARD THAT THE SHAMAN MUNYEO-NIM* CHOSE HER AFTER RECEIVING A REVELATION.
SHE IS *SO YOUNG*, POOR THING...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. THE DROUGHT HAS ALREADY BEEN GOING ON FOR TOO MANY YEARS. OUR WELL DRIED UP A LONG TIME AGO.
WE DON'T EVEN HAVE WATER TO DRINK, LET ALONE FARM WITH!
WE *MUST* OFFER A BRIDE TO APPEASE THE ANGRY WATER GOD.
BUT STILL...
...IT'S SUP-POSEDELY A GOD...
SOMEBODY *MUST BE SACRIFICED* FOR THE GREATER GOOD.
...BUT WHO KNOWS IF IT'S A MONSTER OR NOT.

'NIM' KOREAN HONORIFIC, SIMILAR TO "SIR" OR "MA'AM"

PLEASE DON'T BLAME US TOO MUCH. WE DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS, BUT...
...BUT SOAH, IT'S SO FORTUNATE FOR ALL OF US THAT YOU'RE GOING.
WE ALL TREMEN-DOUSLY APPRECIATE YOU.
NOW WE CAN ALL *LIVE* THANKS TO YOU.
LIES...
"LUCKILY, SHE IS NOT OUR DAUGHTER."
"WE ARE NOT TO BE BLAMED. YOU WERE JUST UNLUCKY.
"AFTER ALL, SOMEBODY HAD TO BE SACRIFICED."
"IT STILL DOESN'T MATTER IF ALL THIS SUPERSTITION IS A LIE... IF ONLY IT WOULD RAIN..."
"IF IT'S NOT ME, THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO IT IS."

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE VILLAGE.
BUT...
SOAH, YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED? YOU LOOK SO PRETTY...
I WANT TO BE A PRETTY BRIDE ONE DAY, TOO...
SOAH...
SOAH...
...BUT...
!
FSHHHAAA

...HABAEK...
PLEASE
PLEASE.
...PLEASE GIVE US RAIN!
FSHKHAAA

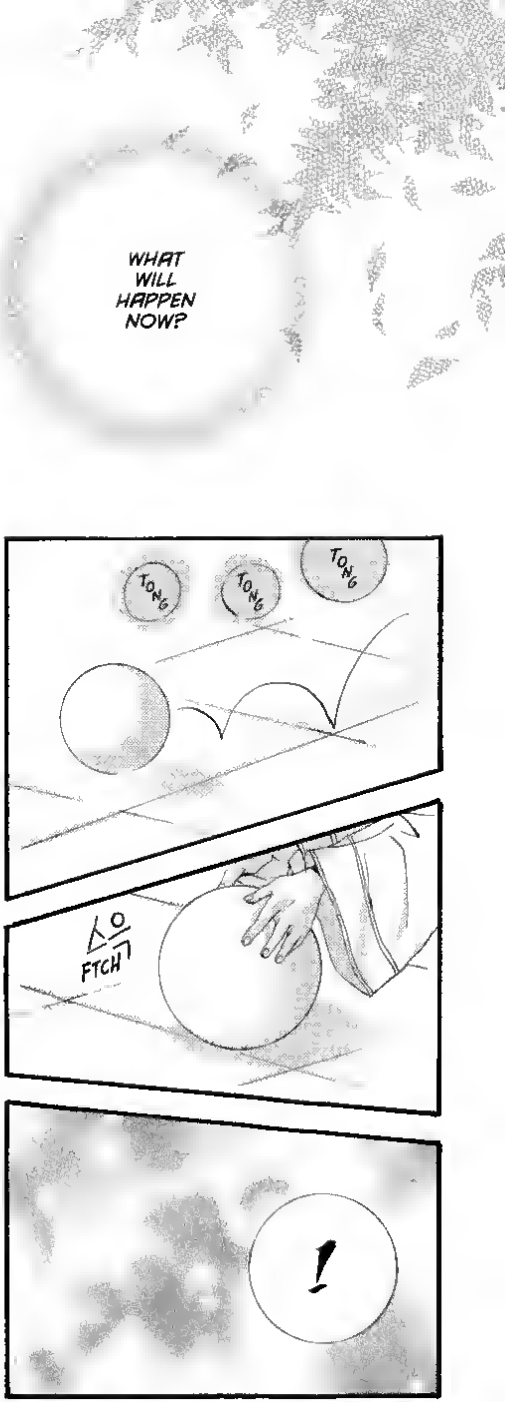
싸아아아
SPSHHH
싸...
SPSH

SPLOOSH
THIS IS...

...THE LAND OF SUGUK?
끼아아아...
FSHHHAAA
바스락
SHFF
쿠우우
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM

?!
WELCOME
I AM YUK-OH. I AM IN CHARGE OF THE PALACE.
PLEASE FOLLOW ME
I WILL GUIDE YOU
GUIDE YOU TO WHERE HABAEK-NIM IS
PLEASE WAIT HERE FOR A MOMENT

AM I ALIVE?
OR AM I DEAD?


WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW?
TONG
TONG
TONG
FTCH
!

A CHILD?
HELLO, LITTLE ONE. DO YOU LIVE HERE?
CLOSE TO MY SISTER'S AGE...

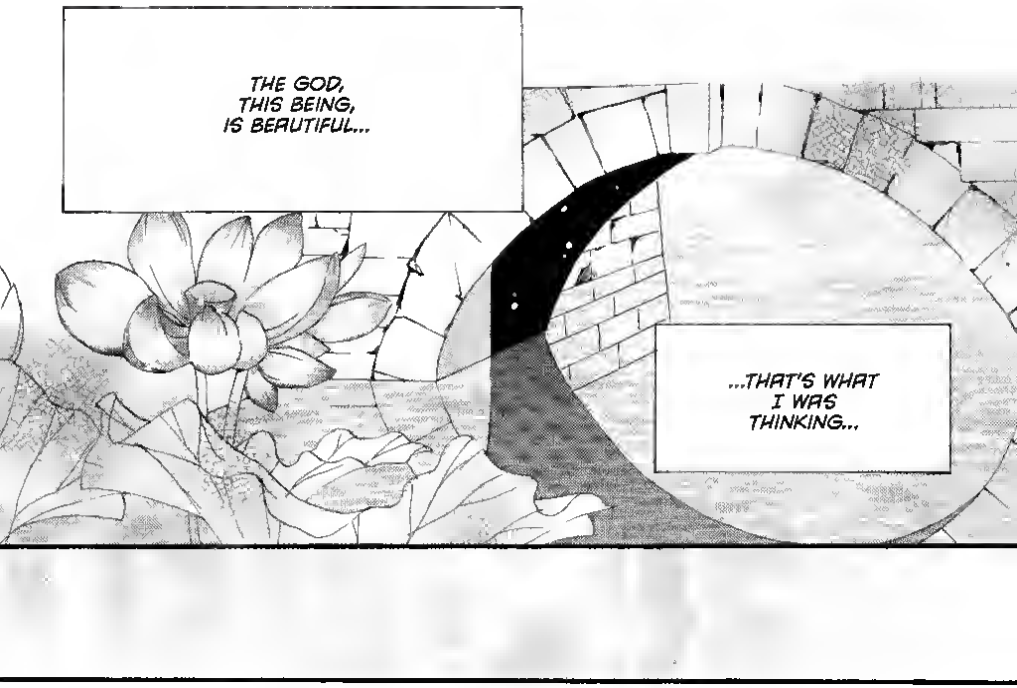
AWW!
COMPLETELY IGNORED...
TOK TOK TOK
.....

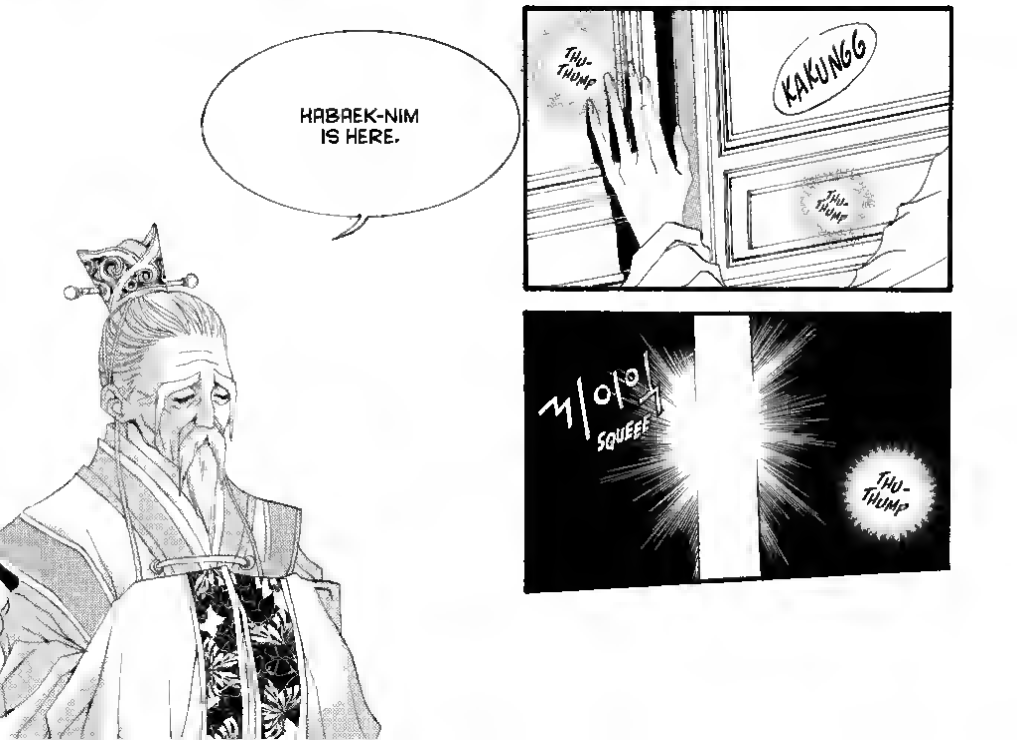
쏴아아...
SHWAA WSHAA
PERFECT...
COMPLETELY LOST. I SHOULD'VE JUST WAITED.

IS THAT HABAEK?
TA-THUMP
TA-THUMP
THEY SAY ONCE YOU SEE HIM, YOU NEVER FORGET HIM.
I HEARD HE'S A TERRIFYING MONSTER.
YES, I ALSO HEARD HE EATS PEOPLE!
TA-THUMP
TA-THUMP
TA-THUMP
TA-THUMP
TA-THUMP
TA-THUMP

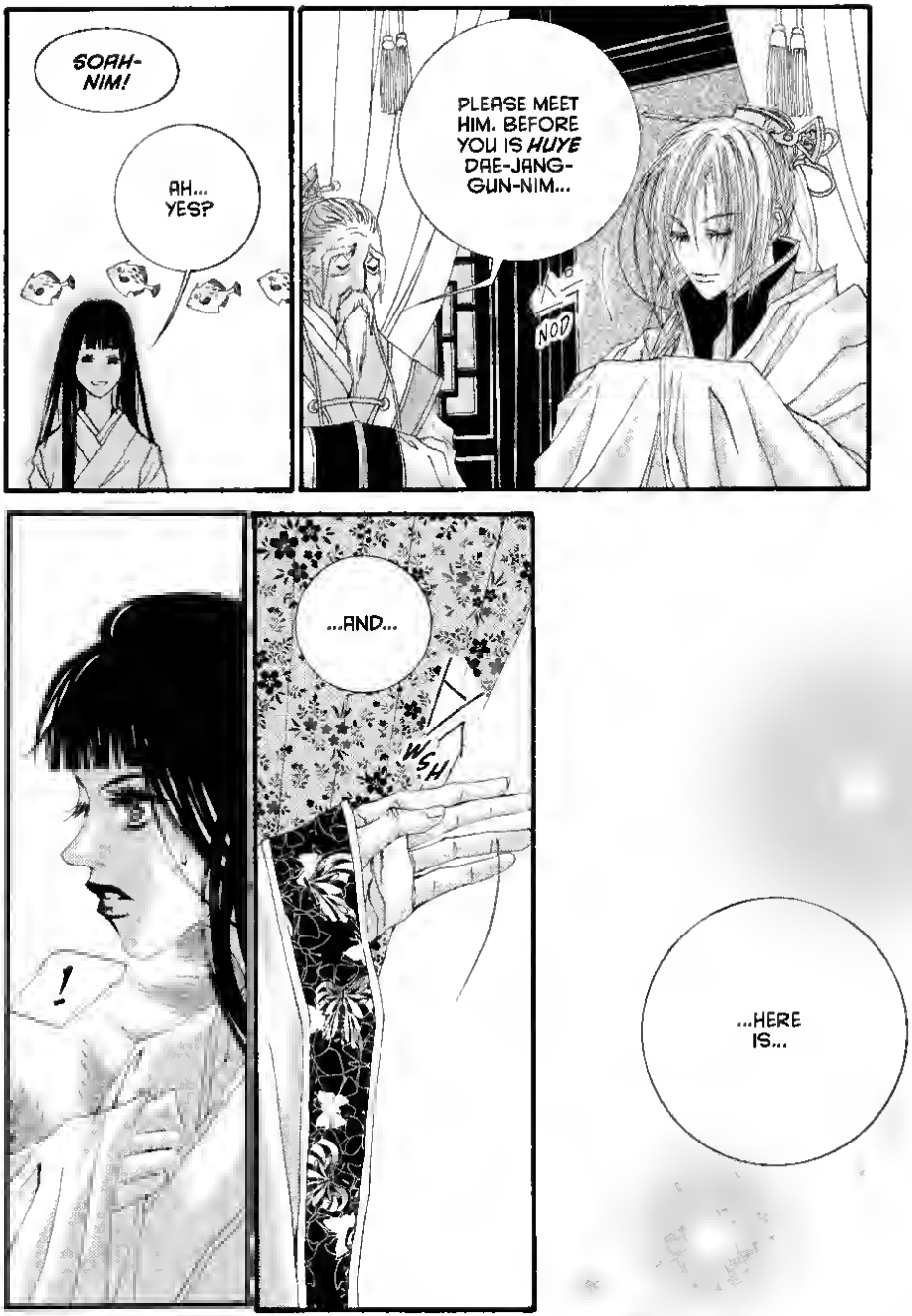
THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP

THAT MAN IS...
...MY HUSBAND...
!
SHIFF
HERE YOU ARE. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR QUITE A WHILE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SOAH-NIM?


THE GOD, THIS BEING, IS BEAUTIFUL...
...THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING...


HABAEK-NIM IS HERE.
THU-THUMP
KAKUNGG
THU-THUMP
끼이익
SQUEEE
THU-THUMP

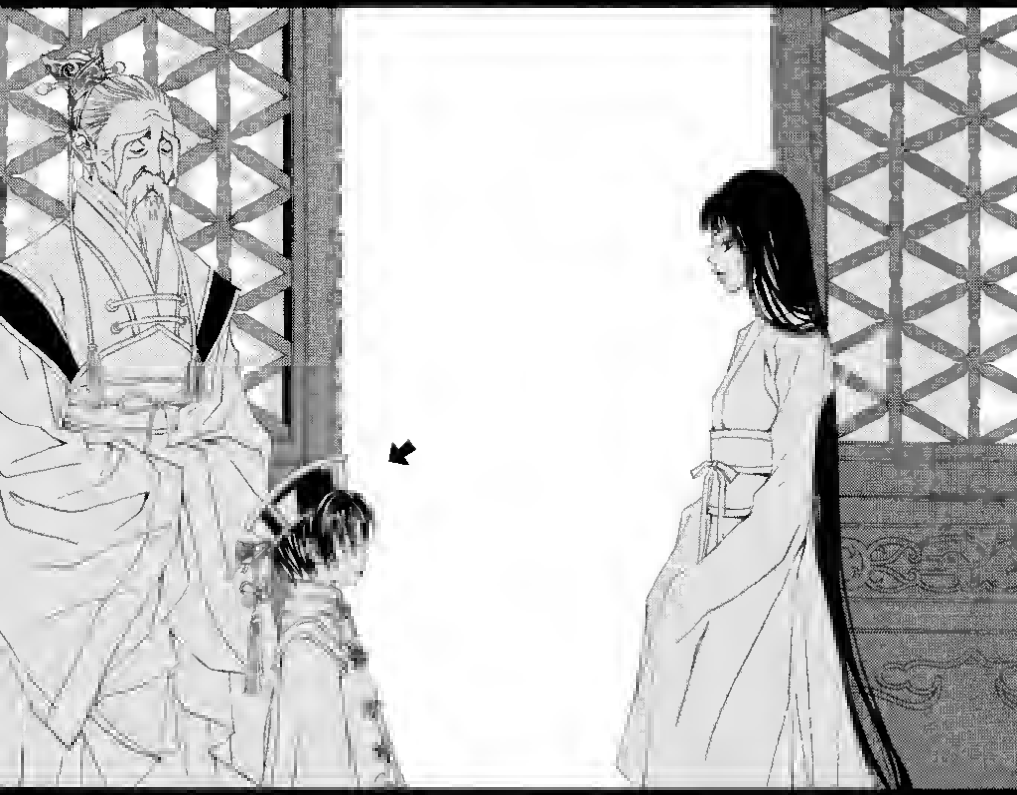
AH HAH...
...YUK-OH...
I BROUGHT SOAH-NIM.
THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP
.....


SOAH-NIM!
AH... YES?
PLEASE MEET HIM. BEFORE YOU IS *HUYE* DAE-JANG-GUN-NIM...
NOD
...AND...
WSH
!
...HERE IS...

...HABAEK-
NIM,
THE WATER
GOD.

.....

WHAT THE--?!



AH
HAH...

...THE WORLD OF A GOD... HUMANS CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND...

...THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING...

NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE ME IF I SAID THE HABAEK THEY WERE SO AFRAID OF IS ACTUALLY JUST A CHILD...

...BUT IT'S BETTER THAN HIM BEING A TERRIFYING MONSTER...

THANKS. YOU'RE A LOT MANLIER THAN I AM--AND HANDSOME AS WELL.

I'M SURPRISED. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WOULD LOOK SO CUTE, HABAEK.

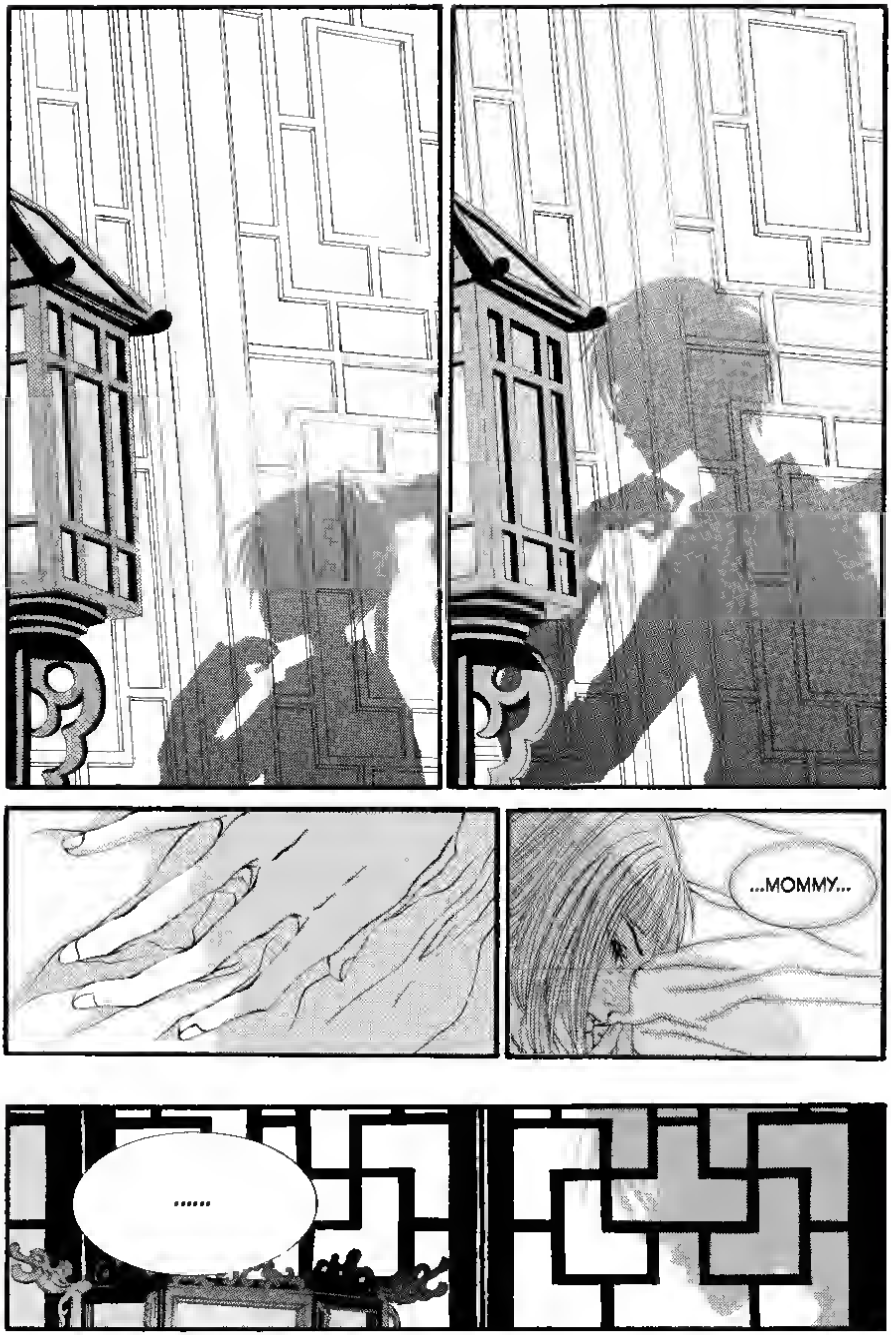
LITTLE JERK...

BTAMM
KFWUMP
HYAA!
UWA!
DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO US AT ALL. JUST KEEP DOING WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING.
BUT WHAT WERE YOU DOING, ANYWAY?
I'M JUDONG.
HEY, YOU'RE CUTE.
CAN HE DO THAT?
WHAT-EVER.
PLEASE JUST CALL ME YOHEE.
I'M MURAH, THE GODDESS...
...SHE IS MU-SAN-SHIN-NI.

DON'T BE SO MEAN-- AND BE GOOD TO HER THIS TIME, HABAEK.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
SHE'S AWAY FROM HER FAMILY. HAVE PITY ON HER.
SHE ACTS LIKE SHE DOESN'T CARE...
...BUT TO BE HONEST, SHE'S BEEN DESERTED.

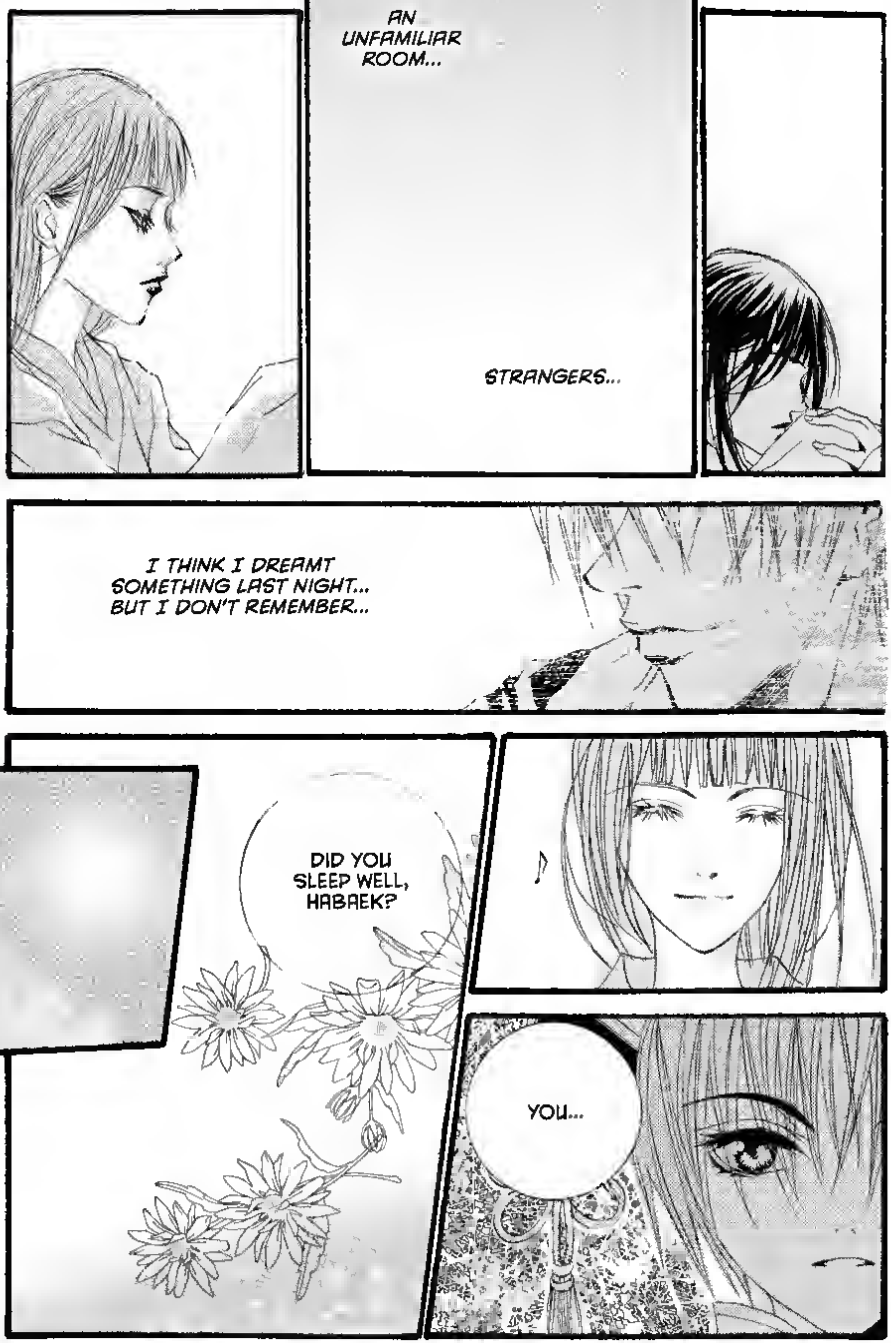
MURAH-- THAT *THING*-- BECAUSE OF HER BIG MOUTH...
DON'T YOU MISS THEM? YOUR FAMILY...?
NO, I *DON'T* MISS THEM AT ALL.
SEE, MURAH DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING. SHE JUST TALKED LIKE SHE DID.
TCH/ HUMANS ARE--I CLEARLY SAID TO OFFER THE *MOST BEAUTIFUL* WOMAN...NOT ONLY *FIVE YEARS*, I WON'T LET IT RAIN FOR *FIVE HUNDRED YEARS.*
?

HFF...
HFF...
A STORMY DAY IS ENDING...


...MOMMY...
.....

YOU ARE A LIAR, LADY.

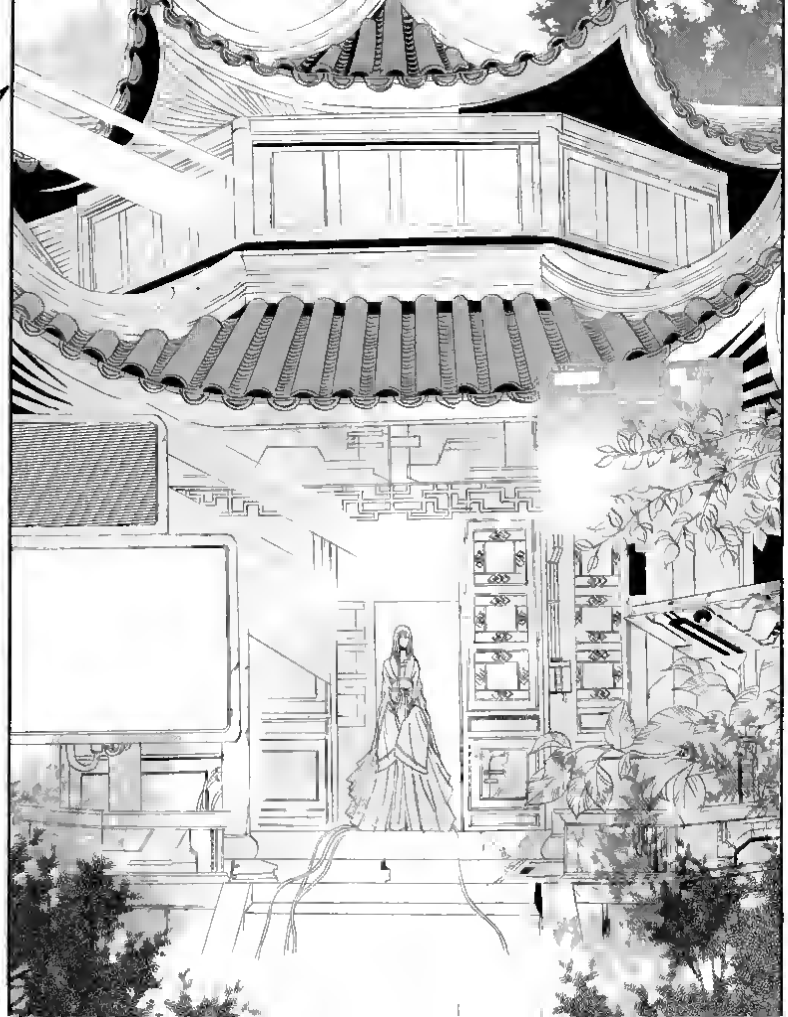
콰아아아…
FSHHHAAA
벌떡
WOOSH
RIGHT... THIS IS NOT HOME...
콰아아…
FSHHHAAA


AN UNFAMILIAR ROOM...
STRANGERS...
I THINK I DREAMT SOMETHING LAST NIGHT... BUT I DON'T REMEMBER...
DID YOU SLEEP WELL, HABAEK?
♪
YOU...

WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?
HUH? YOU DIDN'T BUTTON UP RIGHT.
I'M NOT A CHILD!
BUTTON BUTTON
"SOAH-NIM, PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING."
A BUTLER?! GRAND-FATHER?!
THE GRAND-FATHERLY BUTLER LOOKS LIKE A GOOD MAN.
ALTHOUGH HABAEK IS ALWAYS GRUMBLING AT ME, THERE'S SOMETHING CUTE ABOUT HIM, TOO...

멈춰
PAUSE
I FORGOT...
...I SHOULD'VE WARNED HER NOT TO GO NEAR THE OLD PALACE.
WELL...SHE'S ALREADY BEEN HERE A WHILE... SHE'LL BE FINE...
.....
I GOT LOST AGAIN... AND WHY DO I KEEP SEEING THESE OLD PALACE BUILDINGS?

CHKREEE



WHO IS IT? THIS PALACE ISN'T OPEN TO JUST ANYONE...

OOPS... I'M SORRY! I DON'T KNOW MY WAY AROUND VERY WELL..
허둥
UMM
지둥
UHH
AH..!

HABAEK'S BRIDE! RIGHT?

IT'S NICE MEETING YOU. I'M TAE-EUL-JIN-IN. I'M A DOCTOR AND AN INVENTOR.
I'M SOAH.
ARE YOU IN ANY KIND OF DISCOMFORT OR HAVE ANY ILLNESS? A COLD? ATHELETE'S FOOT?
TELL ME ANY-THING.
NO! I'M FINE.
THEN I WILL WRITE YOU A SCROLL.
IT IS A SCROLL OF WISH FUL-FILLMENT.
.....
IT MAY NOT LOOK NICE, BUT ITS EFFECT IS POWERFUL.
I'M SORRY. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WISH FOR.
I USED TO WISH FOR RAIN, BUT IT'S AL-READY BEEN GRANT-ED.
HUH?
I DON'T THINK IT RAINED YET. DID IT?

HABAEK!
IS IT TRUE?
WHY ARE YOU MAKING ALL THIS FUSS AND NOISE?
IS IT TRUE? YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT RAIN?!
IF IT DOESN'T RAIN AGAIN, MORE PEOPLE WILL DIE.
WE ALL TRUSTED YOU...
MAYBE IT'S A SPORT TO YOU, BUT TO US... TO PEOPLE... OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT.
WHY ARE YOU PLAYING WITH PEOPLE'S LIVES? YOU TREAT LIFE LIKE IT'S SOME KIND OF GAME!

IT'S JUST CAUSE AND EFFECT.
NATURE GIVES BACK AS MUCH AS IT RECEIVES.
THE TRULY SELFISH BEINGS ARE HUMANS. DON'T YOU THINK?

AS LONG AS THEY'RE SAFE, THEY DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO OTHERS.
YOU MUST KNOW THAT BETTER THAN I DO, NO?
"IF WE OFFER A SACRIFICE, WE CAN LIVE! JUST ONE..."
"JUST ONE..."
AND...
TINK
...DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING SOMETHING?

YOU'D BETTER KNOW YOUR PLACE NOW.
BLUSH
HWIK
.....
TAK TAK
TAK TAK
IT WAS MY ILLUSION. I WAS DECEIVED BY HIS LOOKS...
...AND FORGOT THAT HE WAS AN ILL-TEMPERED GOD...

GRAB
HWIK
WHAT?!
AH... HUYE... I'M SORRY.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NOTHING, REALLY.

I'LL HELP YOU... ANYTIME.
샤아아.. SHAAA WSHAA
살랑 RUSTLE 살랑 RUSTLE
IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, TELL ME.
THANK YOU...

BUT I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY *YET*. I'LL DO *THE BEST* I CAN.
SOAH'S SO DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER ONE...
..."LET'S RUN AWAY...
"...LET'S RUN AWAY TOGETHER, HUYE," SHE USED TO SAY...

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO *MEAN* TO HER, HABAEK?
IT'S *NOT* LIKE YOU DON'T LIKE HER...
.....
NO MATTER WHAT...
FWOOOO

...WHAT-EVER IS GOING ON HERE...
...I LIKE *THIS WORLD.*
FWOOOO
THE EARTH IS UGLY AND ALL DRIED UP BECAUSE OF *DROUGHT,* AND WAR IS RAGING AMONG THE HUMANS. THEY'RE FIGHTING AND KILLING EACH OTHER, BUT THE MOON REMAINS THE SAME...IT'S *STILL BEAUTIFUL.*
IT'S NOT *ME*-- IT'S HUMANS WHO STRANGLE *THEMSELVES.*
HUMANS POLLUTE WATER, AND...
...THEY EVENTUALLY KILL *NOT ONLY* THEMSELVES, BUT OTHER BEINGS AS WELL.
IN THE END, EVERYTHING WILL BE DESTROYED.

BUT STILL, ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE THE CUTE BRIDE SAD AND ALONE LIKE THAT?
...MOMMY...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED...

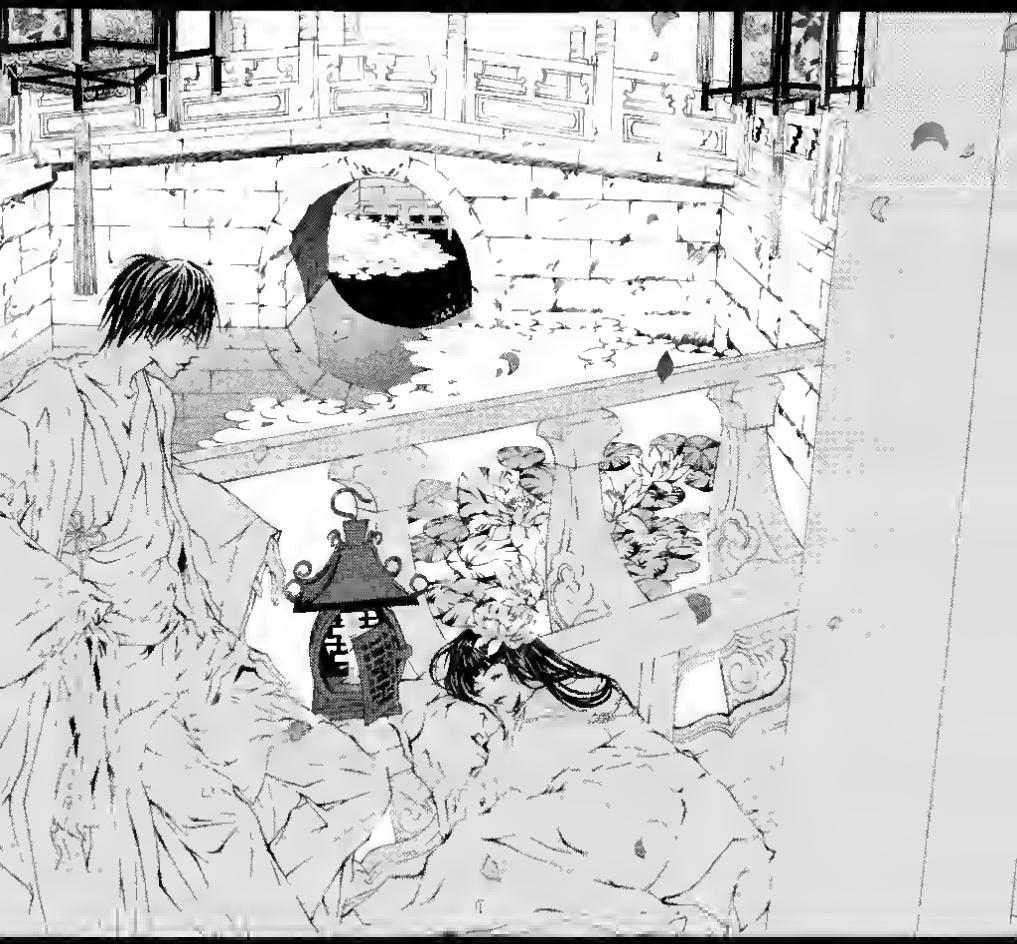
...IT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS. A GOD IS *ALWAYS DECEIVED* BY HUMANS BUT *FORGIVES* THEM IN THE END
GPGHH
HUHP
PIIP
PIIP
FSHAAAA
RAIN!
IT'S RAINING !!

PERHAPS SOME OF THEM RECALLED SOAH, WHO SACRIFICED HERSELF TO BECOME THE BRIDE OF HABAEK.
IN THE YEARS TO COME, IT WILL PASS INTO LEGEND...

...A LEGEND OF A GIRL WHO SAVED HER ENTIRE VILLAGE...
...BY SACRIFICING HERSELF TO APPEASE THE RUTHLESS WATER GOD, HABAEK...

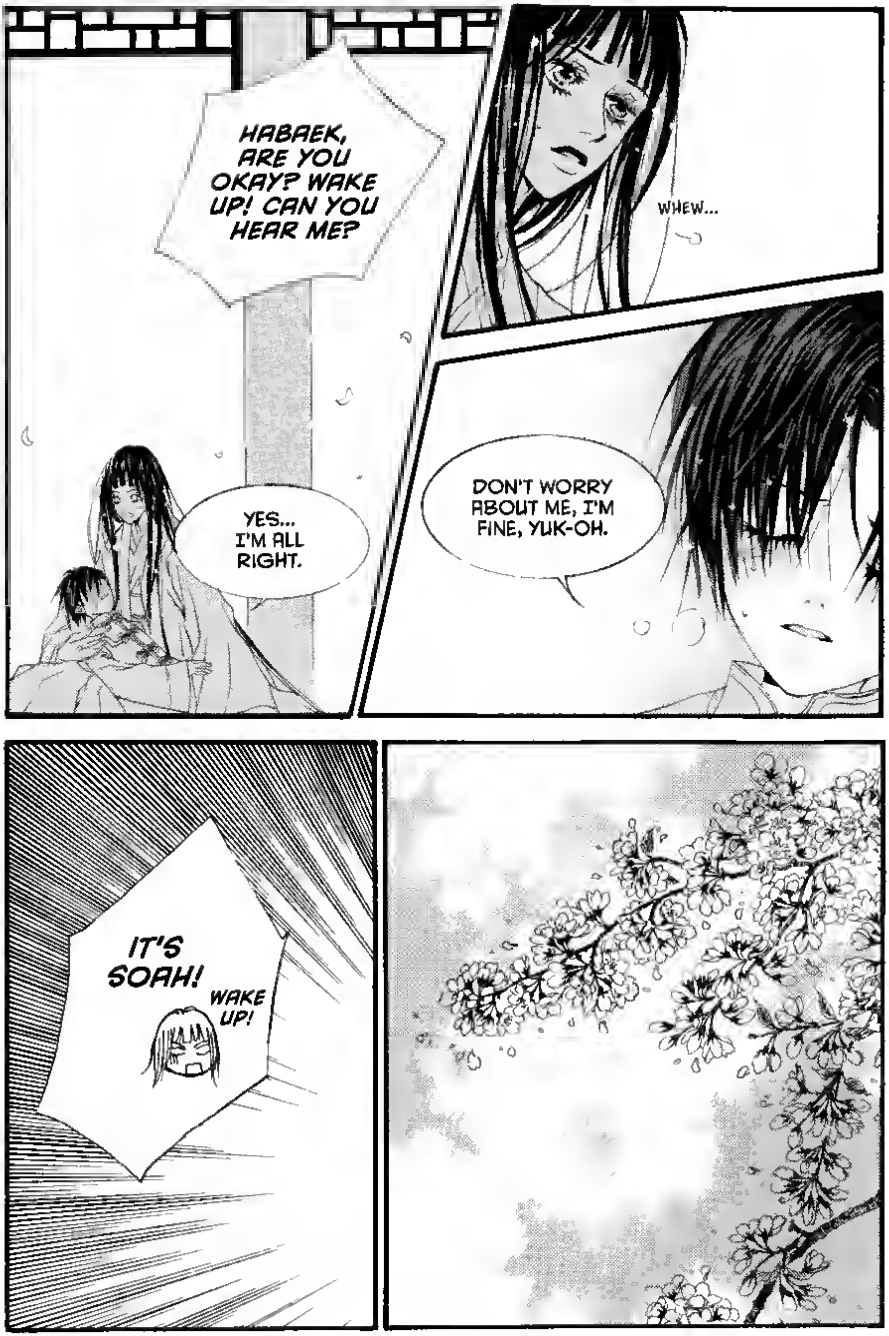
I HEARD THAT HABAEK GAVE *RAIN?*
WHAT GOT INTO HIM ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
.....
BY THE WAY...
...DON'T YOU WANT TO *KNOW...*

...WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE OTHER
BRIDES WHO WERE
SACRIFICED
AS OFFERINGS
TO HABAEK?
?!



ARGHHH... IT'S TOO HOT. TODAY IS ESPECIALLY *HOTTER* THAN USUAL.
IF SUGUK IS THIS HOT, THEN...
OH, YEAH?
I THINK IT'S JUST *PERFECT* TODAY.
....
I JUST HATE HIM FOR SOME REASON.
THE FIRE GOD.
?

콰과아아
FSHHAAAA
.....
HABAEK
?!


HABAEK, ARE YOU OKAY? WAKE UP! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YES... I'M ALL RIGHT.
WHEW...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, I'M FINE, YUK-OH.
IT'S SOAH!
WAKE UP!

DON'T WORRY YOURSELF. HE WAS JUST LIGHT-HEADED.
HABAEK IS THE WATER GOD, SO HE IS WEAK IN STRONG SUNLIGHT.
YOU MUST'VE BEEN FRIGHTENED, TOO, SO WHY DON'T YOU RELAX A LITTLE WHILE YOU DRINK TEA?
BY THE WAY, I HEARD THAT YOU STILL GET LOST OFTEN, HUH? HEH HEH...
SUGUK IS A VERY BIG PLACE. BE CAREFUL SO YOU DON'T SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR.

LIKE HABAEK'S OTHER BRIDES?
WELL... WHO TOLD YOU SUCH A THING ...?
THE GODDESS *MURAH* DIDN'T TELL ME ANY MORE THAN THAT, BUT YOU KNOW--DON'T YOU, TAE-EUL-JIN-IN-NIM?
WHEW! WELL... YOU'RE PUTTING ME IN A TOUGH SPOT.
I DON'T KNOW MANY DETAILS, SINCE I'M NEW HERE MYSELF.
WHAT I KNOW IS THAT HABAEK'S FIRST BRIDE'S NAME WAS *NAKBIN*.

"HABAEK LOVED HER VERY MUCH, BUT UNFORTUNATELY SHE DIED TOO SOON."
WHY SHE DIED OR...
...WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER BRIDES OF HABAEK, I DON'T KNOW.
SO, I ONLY KNOW ABOUT THAT ONE BRIDE.
BUT THERE'S ONE THING FOR SURE THAT I *CAN* TELL YOU.

MANY MIS-UNDERSTAND HIM SINCE HE'S SO IRRITABLE...
...BUT HABAEK IS NOT A *BAD GUY.* SO YOU DON'T NEED TO FEEL UNSAFE.
WELL... I'M ALREADY AWARE OF THAT.
HE GAVE US *RAIN*... BUT...
IF YOU ARE *STILL* NOT SURE, I CAN HAVE A LOOK AT YOUR PALM LINE.
MAYBE YOU WILL FEEL SAFER IF YOU KNOW YOUR FUTURE.
HMMM...
WHAT? IS SOME-THING *WRONG?*

NO, YOU WILL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER FOR A *LONG, LONG* TIME.
WHILE YOU ARE AT IT, WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY SOME SCROLLS? I'LL GIVE YOU A DISCOUNT.
NO!
HABAEK! HABAEK!
I WAS *WORRIED* TO DEATH ABOUT YOU WHEN I HEARD YOU COLLAPSED. SO TAE-EUL-JIN-IN TOLD YOU THAT YOU SHOULD GO TO THE FOREST TO RELAX AND REST, HUH?
I'LL GO, TOO, SINCE I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
NO.
YOHEE, I'M NOT GOING THERE TO *PLAY*.
YOU ARE A PAIN.
.....
PAIN...

쵸아아아
FSHHSHHHH
THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME TO THE FOREST, RIGHT? SUGUK HAS LOTS OF WATER, SO TREES GROW REALLY WELL HERE. THERE ARE SO MANY BEAUTIFUL TREES.
IT'LL BE SO MUCH FUN.
RIGHT? HEE!
HEY, AREN'T YOU GUYS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE FOR MY REST?
HSHS FLISH

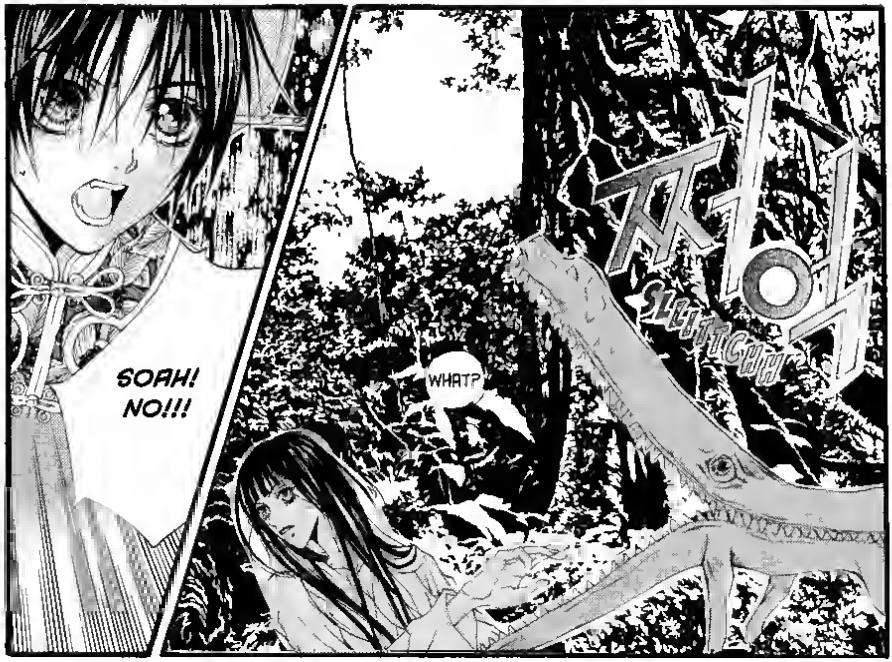
PLANTS ARE VERY HONEST... THEY DON'T LIE, AND THEY RETURN AS MUCH LOVE AS THEY RECEIVE.

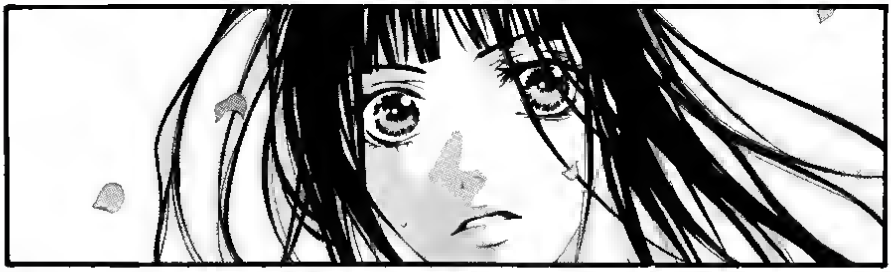
BEAUTIFUL...

YES... THEY ARE! HEH HEH!

JUDONG, YOU ARE THE FIRE GOD. WHY ARE YOU COMING TO SUGUK SO OFTEN?
I'M NOT HERE TO SEE YOU.
HUMPH! MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
SASH
PLISH
ARF!
ARF!

WOW! HOW DID *YOU* GET HERE?
ARE YOU *ALONE?* WHERE'S YOUR FAMILY?
I AM ALONE, TOO...
YOU AND I ARE KIND OF ALIKE...
FWSH
HUH?

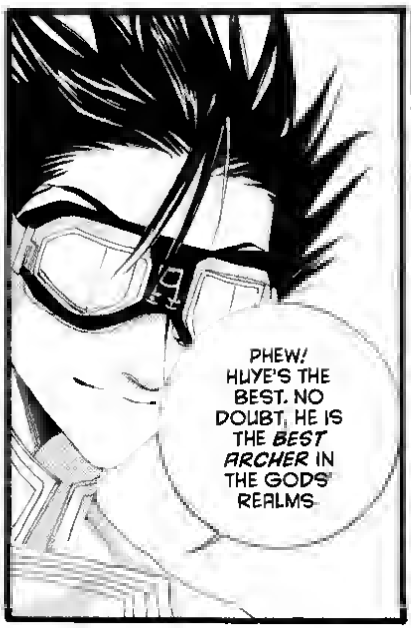

SOAH! NO!!!
WHAT?
SLASH



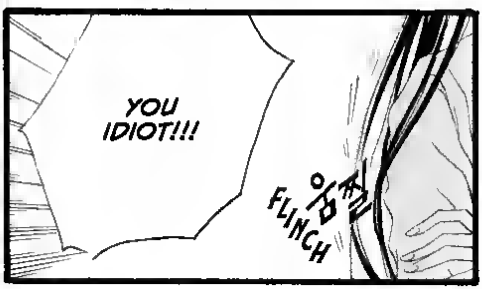
KRRAAARGG
IT'S TOO LATE...
THOKK

KRAK
SHHINNG

KSPTTCH


PHEW! HUYE'S THE BEST. NO DOUBT, HE IS THE *BEST ARCHER* IN THE GODS' REALMS.

BUT WHY IS A *CHE* AROUND HERE?
CHE: A MONSTER THAT IS SIMILAR TO A TIGER, BUT HAS AN OX'S TAIL. BARKS LIKE A DOG. EATS HUMANS.

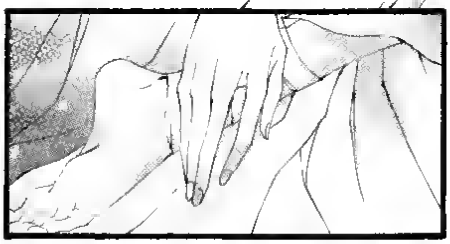

YOU IDIOT!!!
FLINCH

ARE YOU GOING TO GROW BRAINS AFTER YOU DIE? WHY AREN'T YOU MORE CAREFUL?!
FOO! HE DIDN'T EVEN HELP, BUT NOW HE'S ALL TALK...
ARGH!
FWSH
OUCH ...!
털썩
THUMP
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? I THINK SHE SPRAINED HER ANKLE. WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TAE-EUL-JIN-IN WITH US...
AH, I'LL--
I'LL CARRY HER.

WOOSH
WOW! I ENVY YOU, SOAH!
NOW THAT I'M LOOKING AT THEM, THEY LOOK *GOOD* TOGETHER, HUH?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO BACK TOO, HABAEK?
.....
KRNCH
WSH

FLICKER

I JUST... CAN'T SLEEP.



I HEARD FROM THE OTHERS THAT THERE WAS AN *ACCIDENT* THIS AFTERNOON?
IF HUYE WAS NOT THERE, IT WOULD'VE BEEN A DISASTER.
HABAEK, YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BE CAREFUL, SINCE YOU'RE POWERLESS DURING THE *DAY.*
YES.
.....
SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS YET, RIGHT?
YOUR *FORM* RIGHT NOW?

WHY DID YOU HIDE IT?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIDE IT ON PURPOSE, BUT IT JUST WORKED OUT THAT WAY.
WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU'LL TELL HER? DON'T YOU FEEL BAD FOR YOUR BRIDE?
WELL...
...WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR ME TO TELL HER, THEN I WILL.
I'M HAVING FUN WITH ALL THIS, SO IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER TO ME ANYWAY, BUT...

SHE MUST BE SLEEPING NOW...
LEAP
SHWISH

THUMMP
WHAT THE--?!

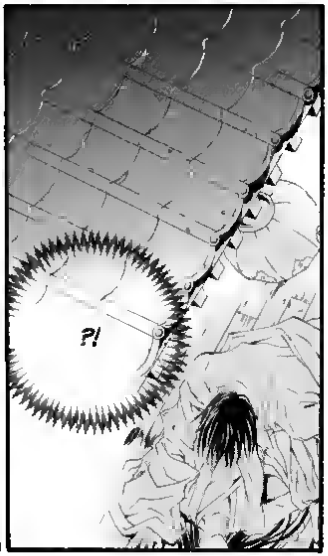
WHOA...!

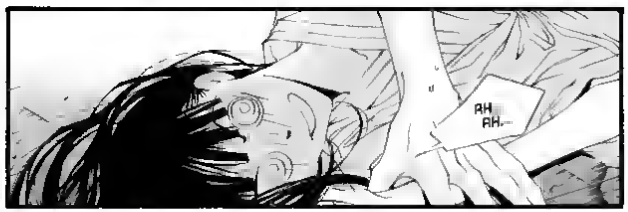
Bride of the Water God

휘청
WOBBLE
?!
쿵
WUMP

ARGHH ,

OUCH


?!


AH
AH..

YAAAAH!
HNNG!

MFF!

I DON'T WANT TO MAKE A BIG FUSS, SO IF YOU *PROMISE* ME THAT YOU WON'T SCREAM, I WILL LET YOU GO.
PROMISE?
NOD NOD
WELL, NOT THAT YOU LOOK REALLY TRUSTWORTHY, BUT..
WISH

I WAS GOING TELL HER ONE DAY, BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO HAPPEN THIS SOON...
...AND BESIDES THAT, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO EXPLAIN TO HER THE SITUATION I'M IN?
THAT I'M A LITTLE KID DURING THE DAY, AND I ONLY GROW AT NIGHT? IT'S THE TRUTH, BUT SOMEHOW THE NUANCE IS JUST...
I PROBABLY SHOULD'VE HIT HER AND RUN OFF...
SHOULD I KNOCK HER OUT NOW?
I REALLY DON'T WANT THINGS TO GET OUT OF HAND.
HNN?
HEY...
WHO... ARE YOU?

...SHE REALLY DOESN'T KNOW?
WELL, OF COURSE. NOBODY WOULD THINK I'M THE SAME PERSON.
I AM...

MY NAME IS MUI.
MUI...
SO, LIKE...
...YOU'RE HABAEK'S COUSIN, RIGHT?
GUESS YOU'RE A FAR REMOVED COUSIN YOU GUYS DON'T LOOK ALIKE AT ALL..
I'M MYSELF.
I LIED IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT, BUT IT'LL BE BETTER TO KEEP THE SITUATION LIKE THIS.

AH, BY THE WAY, I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU.
WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN AWAY?
WEREN'T YOU AFRAID OF HABAEK?
I'M SURE THAT THERE WERE MANY WAYS YOU COULD'VE ESCAPED BEING OFFERED AS A BRIDE.
LIKE... YOU COULD'VE BRIBED MUNYEO OR YOU COULD'VE RUN AWAY SOMEWHERE AND TRIED TO HIDE...
.....

I DON'T RECALL EXACTLY, BUT...
...ONE DAY I WAS PLAYING AROUND THE POND WHEN I WAS YOUNG, AND I ALMOST DROWNED IN THE WATER.
SPLOOOSH
I CAN'T BREATHE...

HELP ME...
MOMMY...
SNATCH
SHWOOOSH
WHO?
HHHFOO!
HOFF!
HOFF!
SOAH!
SOAH, ARE YOU OKAY?

LATER I LEARNED THAT IT WASN'T A PERSON WHO GRABBED MY HAND...
...IT WAS THE STEM OF A WATER LILY.
HABAEK-NIM MUST'VE HELPED YOU.
THE WATER LILY IS THE FLOWER OF HABAEK.

IS THE WATER LILY DIFFERENT FROM THE LOTUS?
THE WATER LILY BLOSSOMS DURING THE DAY-TIME, CLOSES AT NIGHT, THEN BLOSSOMS AGAIN THE NEXT MORNING--SO THAT'S WHY IT IS CALLED THE "SLEEPING LOTUS."
AND PEOPLE CALL IT THE WATER LILY, TOO.
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, HABAEK WAS LAMENTING FOR A PERSON WHO DROWNED IN THE WATER. HE NEVER WANTED SUCH A THING TO HAPPEN AGAIN, SO...
...USING HUGE LEAVES, HE TURNED THE PERSON INTO A WATER LILY.
"YOU, TOO. HABAEK-NIM PROTECTED YOU."

THAT'S WHY I WASN'T SCARED.

ANYBODY WHO CAN GRIEVE SO MUCH FOR SOMEONE'S DEATH...
...CANNOT BE A BAD PERSON, DON'T YOU THINK?

AND LIKE MY GRANDMA TOLD ME, THAT REALLY MIGHT'VE BEEN *HABAEK.*
THERE IS SOMETHING THAT GRANDMA *LEFT OUT.*
THERE ARE SOME WATER LILIES THAT BLOSSOM *"ONLY AT NIGHT,"* TOO.

?

씨아아
WSSHWAA

I MET *HABAEK'S OLDER COUSIN* LAST NIGHT.

?

AN OLDER COUSIN?

AH HAH... *MUI*...

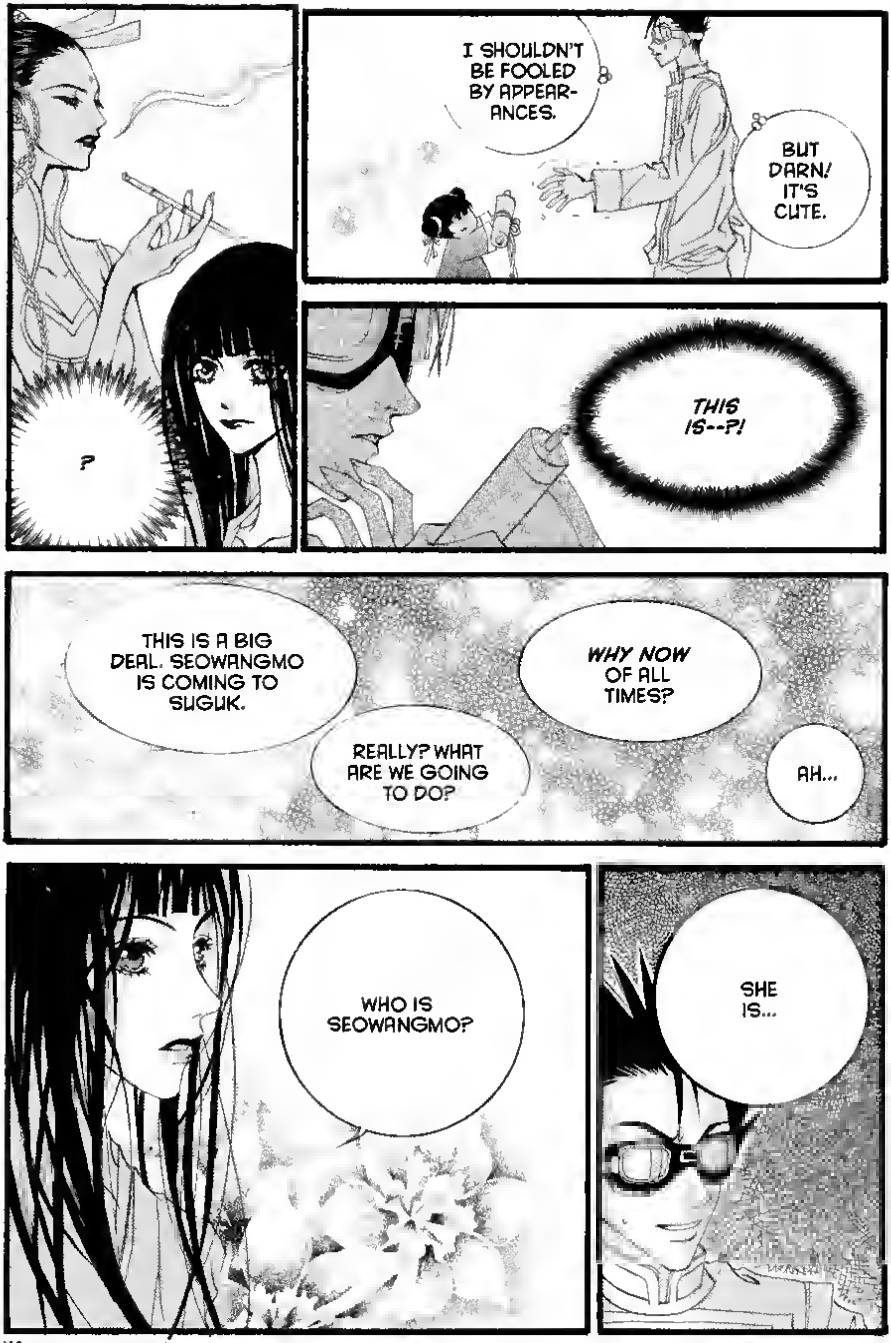
THE ONE NAMED *MUI*.

AN OLDER COUSIN?
YES, THERE REALLY IS A PERSON NAMED MUI. HEH HEH!
GUESS IT WASN'T A LIE, THEN?
SO... HOW WAS THE FIRST MEETING?
.....
THE WATER LILY...
HE'S LIKE A WATER LILY.
?

PIPIRREE
PIPIRREE
HABAEK HAS A BRIDE NOW?
HMPH! WITHOUT TELLING ME A WORD?
.....
MUI--THAT KID-- HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL...DOING WHATEVER HE PLEASES.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE LET ANOTHER *PETTY HUMAN* INTO SUGUK AGAIN...

SEOWANGMO'S MESSENGER IS HERE!!
I'M GOING TO SUICIDE MYSELF

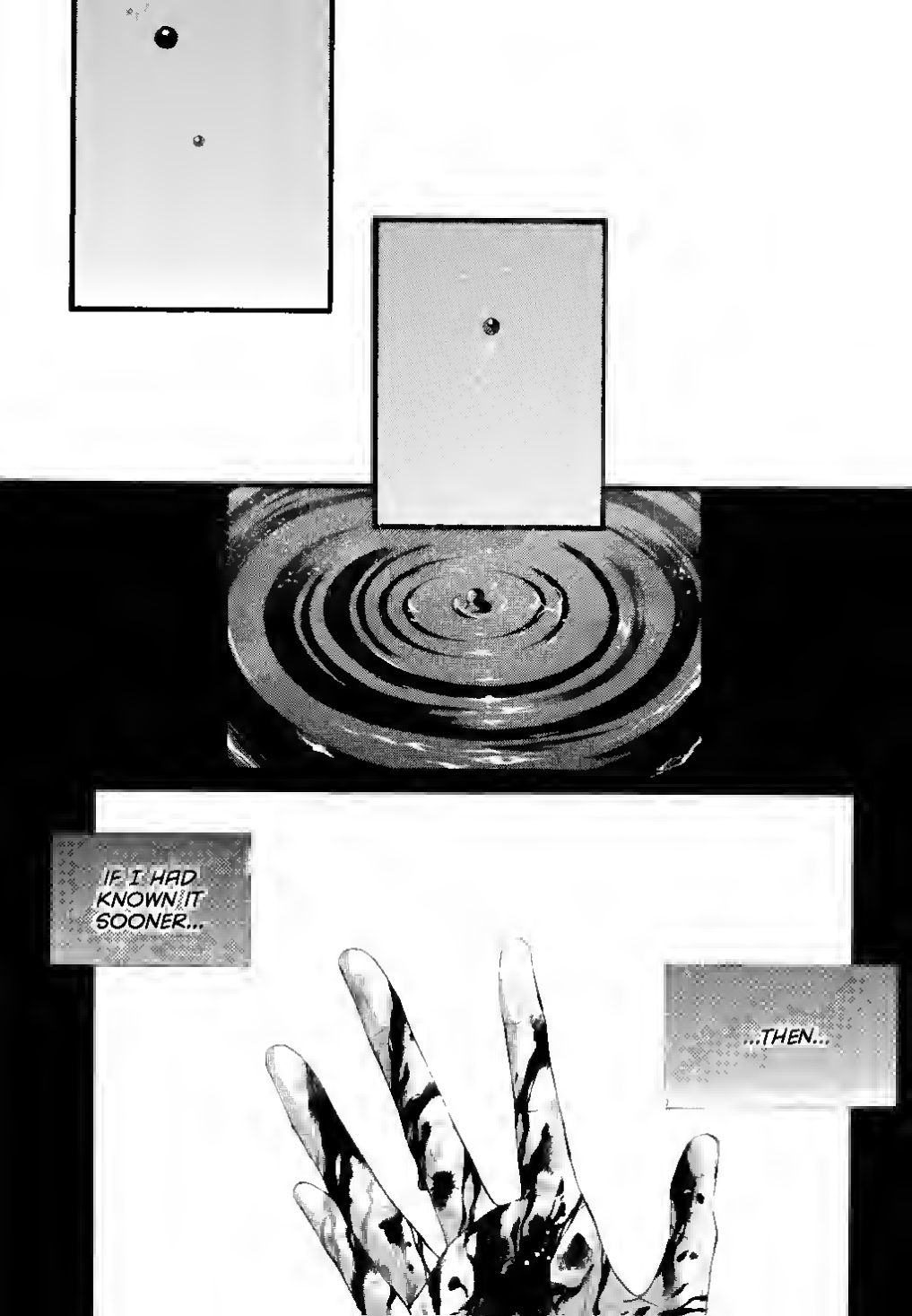
퍼덕
FWUPP
파닥
FWIP
FWIP
파닥
FWIP
FWIP
파
닥
FWIP
파닥
FWIP
파
닥
파닥
FWIP
FWIP
철푸덕
KTNPP
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A MESSEN-GER?
THEY ARE VERY CLOSE TO THE GODDESS. YOU SHOULD NEVER THINK LIGHTLY OF THEM.


?
I SHOULDN'T BE FOOLED BY APPEAR-ANCES.
BUT DARN, IT'S CUTE.
THIS IS--?!
THIS IS A BIG DEAL. SEOWANGMO IS COMING TO SUGUK.
REALLY? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WHY NOW OF ALL TIMES?
AH...
WHO IS SEOWANGMO?
SHE IS...

...HABAEK'S MOTHER.
I GUESS SHE IS VERY STRICT?
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYBODY'S SCARED OF HER...
IT'S NOT THAT SHE'S MERELY STRICT...

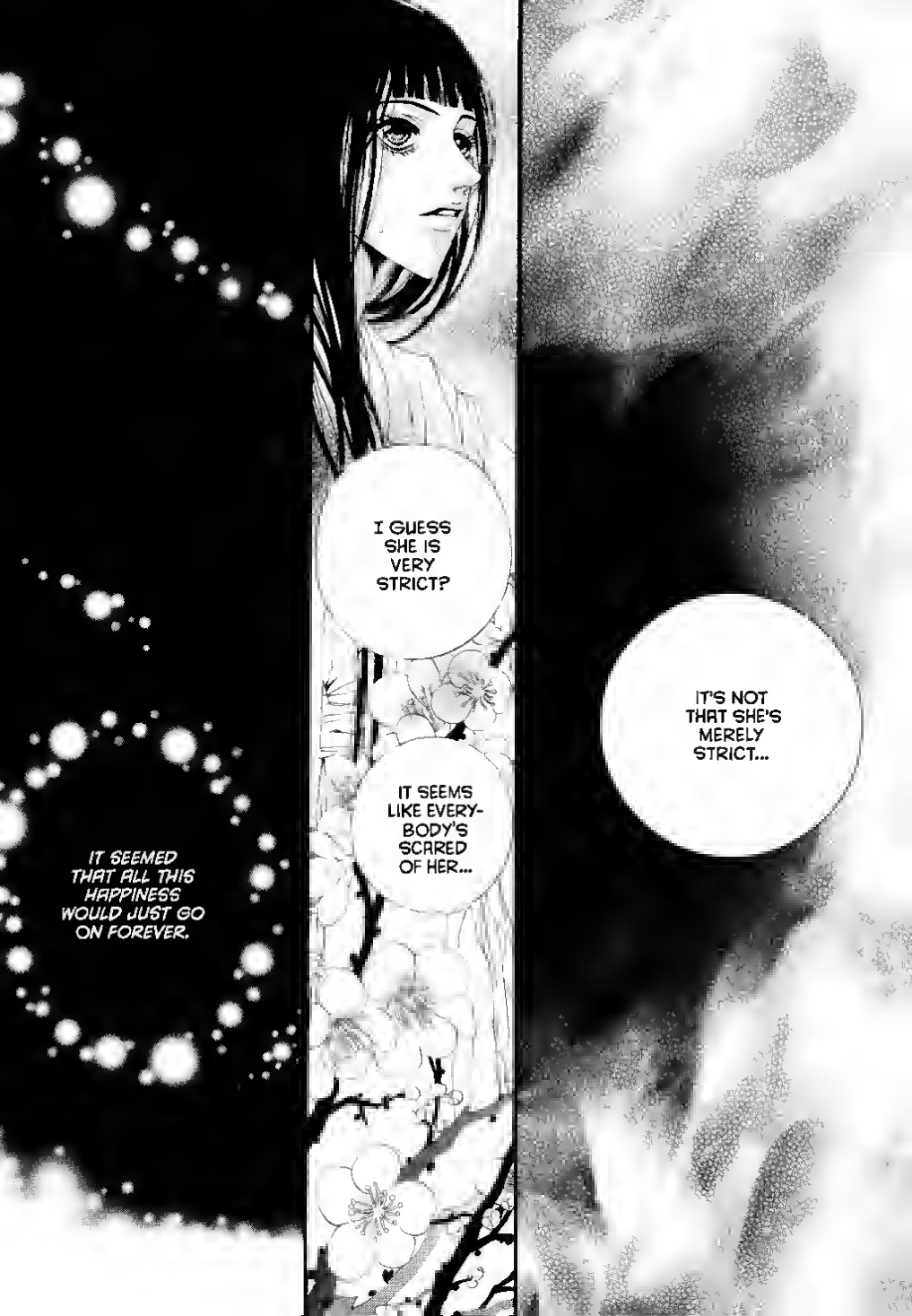
...THE REAL REASON SEOWANGMO IS *FEARED*...
...IS BECAUSE SHE'S THE GODDESS OF PUNISHMENT AND TORTURE!

WHY DID
EVERYTHING TURN
OUT THIS WAY?


IF I HAD KNOWN IT SOONER...
...THEN...

...THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS...

NOBODY
KNEW
BEFORE.


IT SEEMED THAT ALL THIS HAPPINESS WOULD JUST GO ON FOREVER.
I GUESS SHE IS VERY STRICT?
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY-BODY'S SCARED OF HER...
IT'S NOT THAT SHE'S MERELY STRICT...

...THE REAL REASON SEOWANGMO IS *FEARED*...
...IS BECAUSE SHE'S THE GODDESS OF PUNISHMENT AND TORTURE!
?!
BUT THEN AGAIN, YOU DON'T NEED TO BE ALL TENSE. SHE'S ALSO THE GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY.
WHEW!
BUT THEN AGAIN, YOU REALLY CAN'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN BECAUSE SHE'S ALSO THE GODDESS OF DISEASE.
BY THE WAY...
...WHERE IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT HERO, ANWAY?

HWOOSH
HWOOOH
SHWOOSH
HWOOSH
WSH
.....

龍
龍 꿈틀
TWITCH
스크륵
SKRITCH
FWISH
휘이
HWOO

THE WATER AND WIND ARE MAKING A BIG FUSS TODAY.
THEY ARE STIRRING BECAUSE OF AN UNKNOWN PRESENCE.
DID SOMEBODY COME?
YES, THE *CHUNGJO* OF SEOWANGMO HAS COME WITH A MESSAGE.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, JUDONG ALREADY OPENED IT.
WHAT DID IT SAY?
THAT SHE WILL VISIT SUGUK SHORTLY.

...BECAUSE OF SOAH.
BUT HOW DID SHE FIND OUT? SHE HASN'T BEEN IN SUGUK FOR A FEW HUNDRED YEARS...
WAS IT YOU, HUYE?
촐러
SPISH
촤아아
SPSHOOO
I'M SORRY. I'LL ACCEPT ANY KIND OF PUNISHMENT.

HMPH! DON'T WORRY.
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T DO IT.
NO DOUBT, IT IS *YUK-OH.* HE WAS WITH HER ORIGINALLY.
SPSHWAAA
YOU KNEW IT FROM THE BEGINNING. HMPH! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT IT'S NO USE TRYING TO COVER UP FOR HIM?
I'M SORRY.
PLOOSH

DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN.
.....
YOU'RE THE LAST ONE, AND IF YOU BETRAY ME...
...I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.

NEVER...
...FORGIVE YOU...
YES...

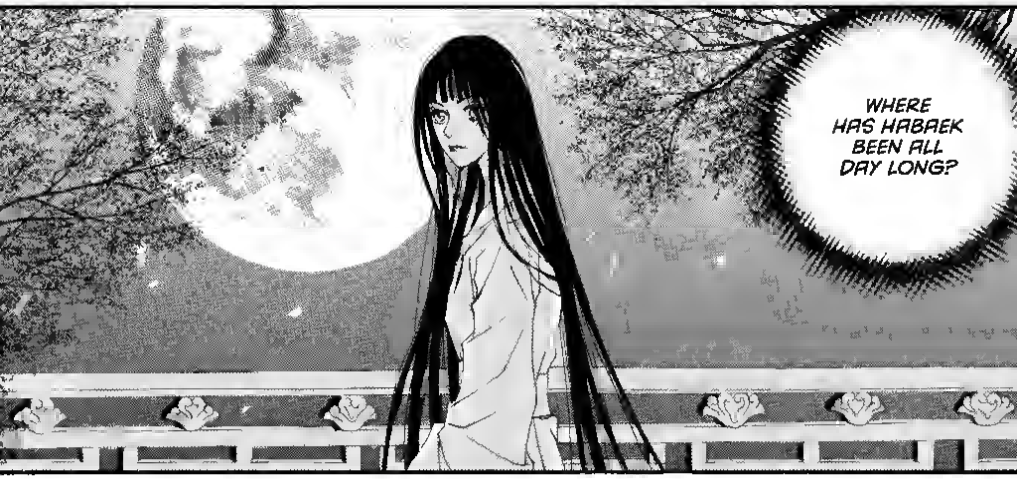
BTAMM!
HABAEK!
DID YOU HEAR? SEOWANG-MO IS--!!
WHAT THE--?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HOLDING EACH OTHER?
HRK!!

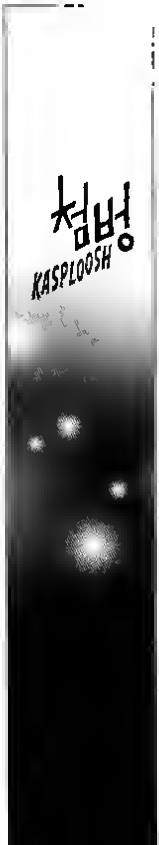
SOAH...
YOHEE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE *ALONE*?
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT SOME THINGS.

DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH. IF IT'S ABOUT SEOWANGMO-NIM...
...EVERYTHING WILL BE *ALL RIGHT.* CHEER UP, SOAH.
THANK YOU...
PFF! WHAT IS HE DOING? A *HUSBAND* SHOULD BE WITH HIS BRIDE AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
WHAT DID HABAEK SAY?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW...

OKAY, THEN. I'LL GO BACK FIRST.

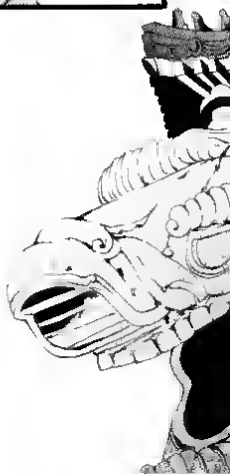
OKAY...


WHERE HAS HABAEK BEEN ALL DAY LONG?


첨벙
KASPLOOSH

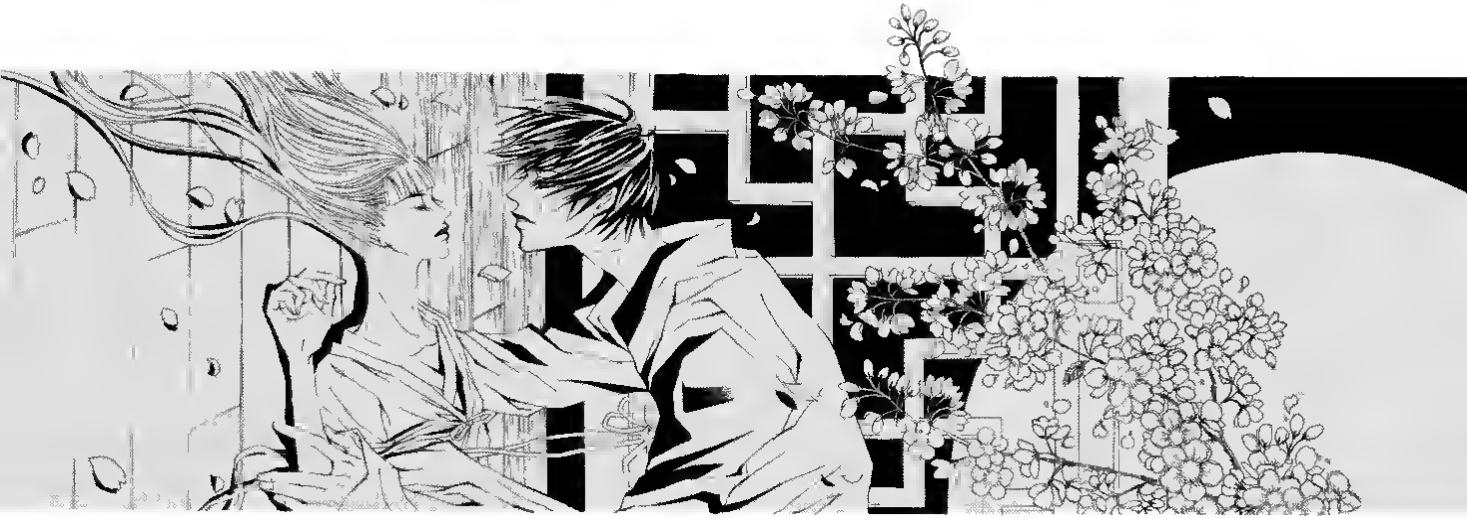
?

첨벙...
KASPLOOSH

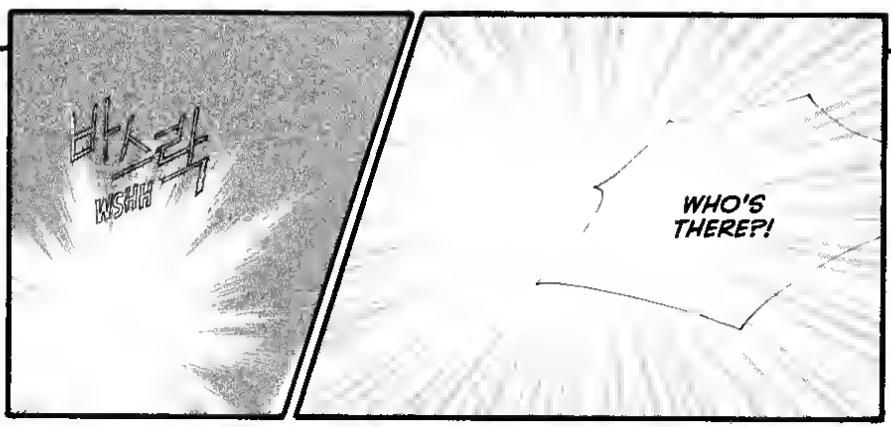


촐렁
KSPLISH
SPSSHHAAA

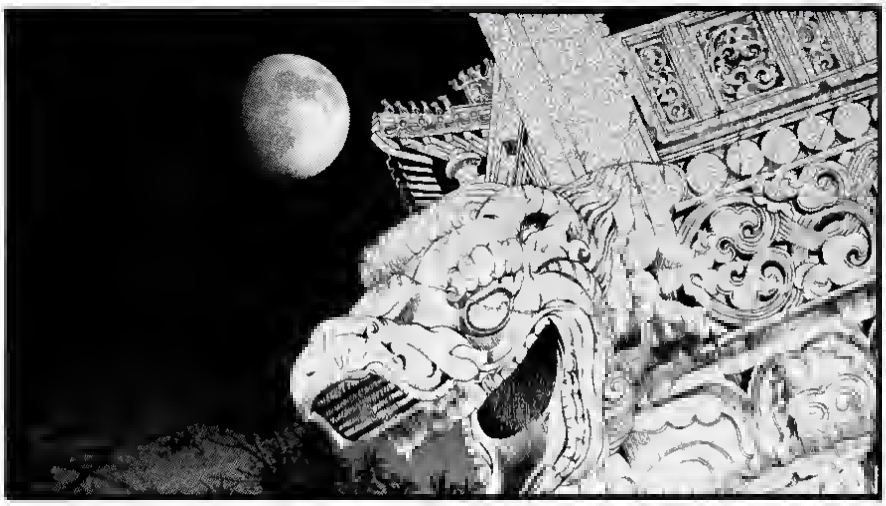
Bride of the Water God



SPSH
SPLSH


바스락
WHO'S THERE?!

AROUND GUHA WE WANDER ABOUT
THE WIND RISES TO CROSS THE WAVE
WITHIN THIS WAGON OF WATER, HOW CAN I TAKE SHELTER
WHILE RIDING THE TWO DRAGONS THAT FOLLOW ANOTHER?
--FROM "THE POEM OF HABAEK"
(GUGA POEM / CHOSA STYLE)



SPSH
HSIHS

A SNEAKY RAT'S SPYING ON ME.

I KNOW YOU'RE THERE, SO COME OUT AT ONCE.

HRK!

BUT THIS...
...THIS SITUATION... ISN'T IT A LITTLE REVERSED?
I JUST HID BECAUSE I WAS EMBARRASSED, BUT...
NORMALLY, A MAN PEEKS IN ON A WOMAN TAKING A BATH...
THAT IS NOT NORMAL, EITHER.
...HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GO OUT NOW!
I SIMPLY GOT LOST AND CAME OUT THIS WAY...
...BUT THEN...

YOU'RE STUBBORN.

WELL, I CAN ALWAYS SEE WHO YOU ARE AFTER I KILL YOU.
SPSHAA
GYAH!
FSHHHHAAA

SPSH
SHWAAA
FSHHHAAA
LIKE HABAEK, LIKE COUSIN!
THEY BOTH HAVE A SHORT TEMPER!!
WAIT--

WAIT!!
FWOOSH
WSHAAA

TNK
LONG TIME NO SEE, LORD OF THE WATER.
BANWANG... WAS THAT YOU?

YOUR QUICK TEMPER IS STILL THE SAME.
HRRF HRRF
SHUT UP. A PERVERTED DOG WHO SNEAKS A PEEK AT SOMEONE BATHING HAS NO ROOM TO TALK!
.....
URK!
HMPH! WELL...IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY FORM, THEN...
KRAK
KAKRAK
KRAK
...I WILL TALK TO YOU IN THIS FORM.

THE EMPEROR TOLD ME TO FETCH THE LORD OF THE WATER.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.
SO-- BE GONE NOW! YOUR DOG HAIR IS EVERY-WHERE!
HFF! 후이이
.....
훅
훅
HWIK
HWIK
IT'S ABOUT NAKBIN...
FREEZE

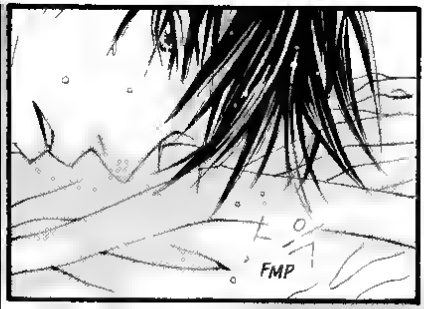
HE TOLD ME YOU'D UNDERSTAND IF I SAID THAT.

I CAN ONLY SEE *MUI* FROM HERE
WHO IS HE TALKING TO?
I THINK I'LL HEAR HIM BETTER IF I CAN JUST GET CLOSER.
SKFF
?!
툭 둑
KTTUK

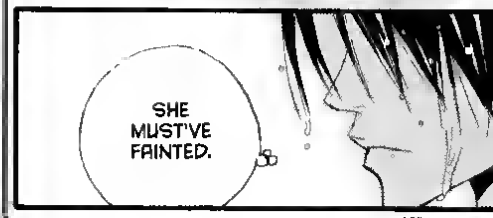
HA HA! IS THERE ANOTHER RAT HERE?!
FWAP
YAA!!
?!

HWWK
첨벙
SPLOOOSSH

HABAEK...
HABAEK...
ARE YOU GOING TO PRETEND AS IF NOTHING'S HAPPENED AND JUST PLAY? WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.
GROAN
WHERE WERE YOU LAST NIGHT?
LEAVING SOAH ALL ALONE...



THU-THUMP THU-THUMP THU-THUMP



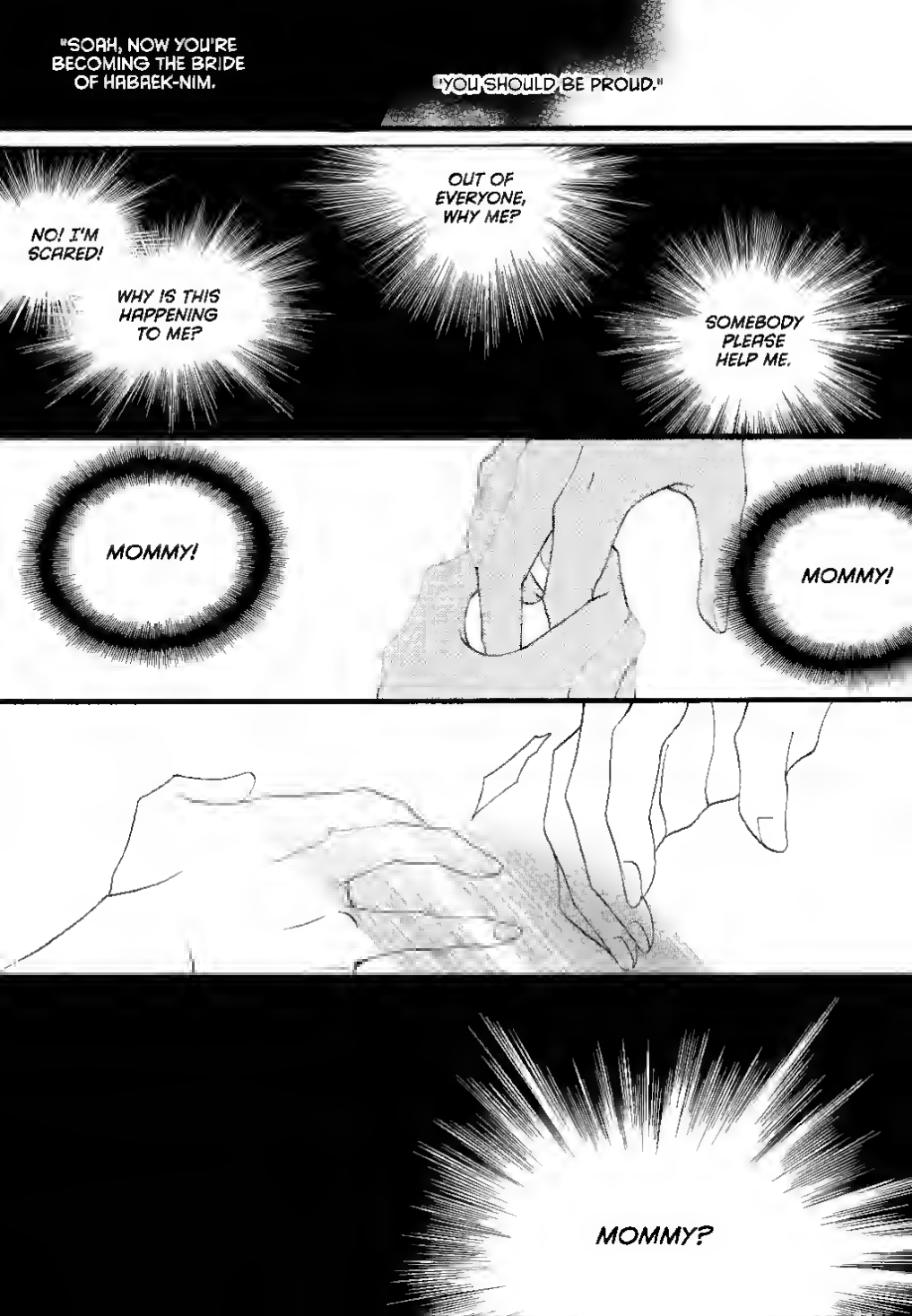
SPLOOSH
THAT LADY IS...
FWSH
...SHE IS...
SNATCH
SHE'S NOBODY... NOTHING.

.....
VERY WELL....
SHK SHK SHK
SHKAAAH

WHO IS THIS?

A FAMILIAR SCENT.
...HABAEK?
끼익
KRIK KREEE
TAK

휘잉
HSHH
덜커..
FWOOSH


"SORRY, NOW YOU'RE BECOMING THE BRIDE OF HABAEK-NIM.
"YOU SHOULD BE PROUD."
NO! I'M SCARED!
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?
OUT OF EVERYONE, WHY ME?
SOMEBODY PLEASE HELP ME.
MOMMY!
MOMMY!
MOMMY?

IT WAS... A DREAM...

WHEN DID I COME BACK?

IS IT BECAUSE OF THE WAY I FEEL?

IT FEELS LIKE...
THE MOON FEELS
A LOT BRIGHTER
THAN USUAL...

TWO MOONS?
NO.
THAT IS NOT THE MOON.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THAT IS...

...GONRYUN MOUNTAIN.
KOOM KOOM KOOM KOOM
SEOWANGMO'S HERE...

HER FACE IS SO BEAUTIFUL AND COLD. IT'S QUITE SCARY.

I CAN TELL WHO THIS IS WITHOUT ASKING ANYTHING...
슥
FWSH
움찔
FLINCH
SO THIS IS THE HUMAN GIRL WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE BRIDE...
SHE IS...

...HABAEK'S MOTHER!!
AND...
...SHE IS ALSO THE GODDESS OF PUNISHMENT AND TORTURE...
I JUST STOPPED BY FOR A WHILE TODAY TO SAY HELLO.

WE'LL TALK MORE WHEN THE DAY GETS BRIGHTER.
휘이이잉
HWWOOO
IT'S COLD...
IT'S NOT A DREAM...!!

쿠아아아...
VOOM KOOM KOOM KOOM
HEARD THAT YOUR MOTHER'S ARRIVED, HUH, HABAEK?
SHOULD YOU BE HERE PLAYING LEISURELY LIKE THIS?
.....
ARIAGHH! MOVING YOUR PIECE THERE...

HA-BAEK...
...ARE YOU GOING TO PRETEND AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED AND JUST PLAY? WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.
WHERE WERE YOU ALL LAST NIGHT?
WELL...
YOU CAN'T JUST SAY "WELL"... SOAH'S BEEN CALLED TO GO BEFORE SEOWANGMO!
.....

IT'S BEEN A REALLY *LONG TIME,* JUDONG.
HAS IT BEEN ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED YEARS SINCE YOU STOLE A *CHUNDO* AND ATE IT AT *SUNDOWON?*
AHAH HA HA HA HA... THAT'S RIGHT.
DARN! WHAT A GOOD MEMORY.
HEH HEH!

WAS YOUR NAME SORAH?
GUHRK!
AH, YES--
HEH,
DON'T BE SO AFRAID OF ME. I'M NOT REALLY ALL THAT HORRIBLE.
LIE!
HOW OLD DO YOU THINK I AM?
UH... WELL... ABOUT THIRTY...
BLAH! SHE IS ACTUALLY ABOUT TWENTY THOUSAND YEARS OLD...!
SPAKK
WHAT GOOD EYES YOU HAVE, JUST CALL ME "MOTHER" AS YOU WISH.
NO WONDER WHY HABAEK IS SO HANDSOME. YOU ARE SOOO BEAU-TIFUL.
← STRUGGLING FOR SURVIVAL.

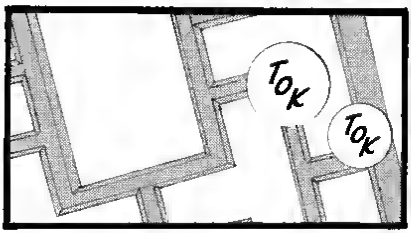
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW OLD YOUR CHILD IS, PARENTS ARE ALWAYS CONCERNED.
WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO SUGUK?
HABAEK...?

IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SAY TO A MOTHER YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN SUCH A LONG TIME?
SOAH.
YOU GO BACK WITH YOHEE.
FUMP
WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT?
?
YOU DON'T THINK I WILL DO ANYTHING TO HER, DO YOU?

AH... I...
RIGHT NOW!
FWAA
I'M DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME, BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO LIKE IT AT ALL.
YOU SAY THAT YOU'RE GLAD TO SEE ME, BUT WHY HAVEN'T YOU VISITED IN SUCH A LONG TIME?
.....
HWK

IT WAS JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, BUT SHE LOOKED LONELY...
YOU WERE SCARED, WEREN'T YOU SOAH?
SOAH?
HUH? I'M SORRY.
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT MY MOM...
ARE YOU HOMESICK?
IT'S NOT THAT...
"HONEY, I'M SO SORRY..."

WHY IN THE WORLD WAS HABAEK SO ANGRY LIKE THAT THIS AFTERNOON?


TOK
TOK

AT THIS HOUR? WHO COULD IT BE?
WHO IS IT?

?!

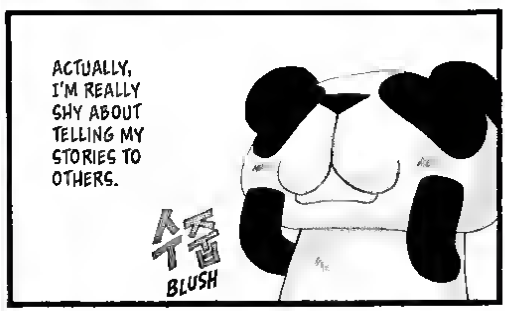
MUI?

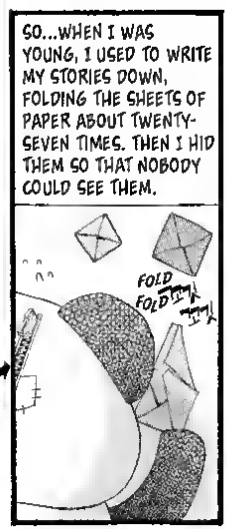
FWSH
FWAP
WHAT THE--?
WHAT IS THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN ?!
THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP

.....
.....
WHAT ...?

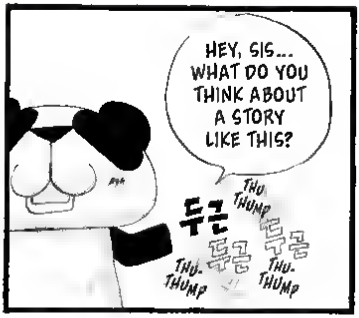
HWIK
WHAT...
...WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
GO BACK.

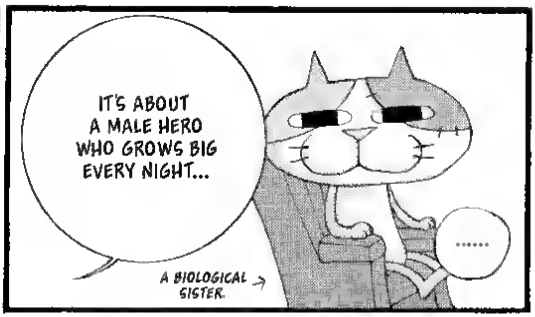
I'M TELLING YOU TO GO BACK HOME.

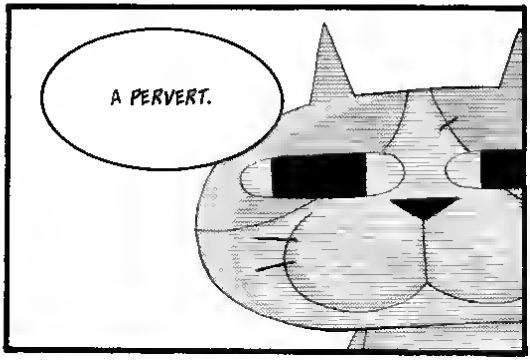



SO...WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I USED TO WRITE MY STORIES DOWN, FOLDING THE SHEETS OF PAPER ABOUT TWENTY-SEVEN TIMES. THEN I HID THEM SO THAT NOBODY COULD SEE THEM.
FOLD
FOLD

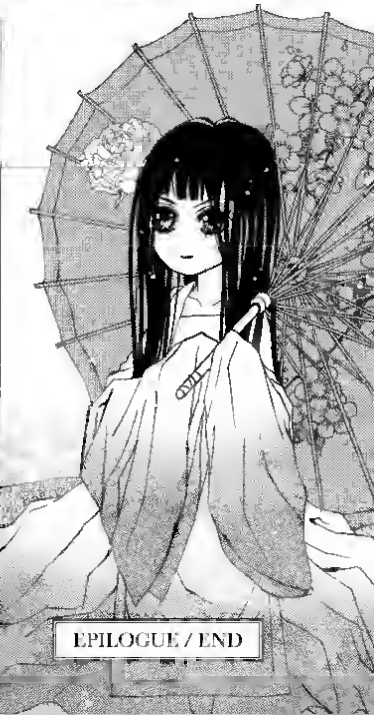
YOU ACTUALLY CANNOT FOLD PAPER MORE THAN ABOUT TEN TIMES







SO, A FEW YEARS AFTER THAT, I STARTED MY STORY HERE AGAIN. (WELL, IT ALMOST GOT CUT AT THE PLANNING STAGE...)
PLEASE WATCH FOR MORE FROM ME IN THE FUTURE, TOO.♥



EPILOGUE / END

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People say that one's creation comes to possess their soul when one pours their mind and hope into it.

I thank you so much for reading my stories, although I have a lot to work on. I will keep working harder.

—Mi-Kyung Yun

CREATOR PROFILE

Born on October 14, 1980. Majored in Animation at Mokwon University.

Received the silver medal for Seoul Media Group's "Shin-in-gong-mo-jeon" ("New Artist Debut Competition") for *Na-eu Ji-gu Bang-moon-gi* (*The Journey of My Earth Visit*) in 2003.

Received a "Shin-in-sang" ("Best New Artist") award from the Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization for *Railroad* in 2004.

Currently publishing *Bride of the Water God* serially in the Korean comics magazine *Wink*.

STORY NOTE: The poem that appears on page 136 is a Chinese poem. *Chosa* is one of the literary styles developed during China's "Cho" dynasty. Within this style, *guga* poetry was specially dedicated to singing about and worshipping gods such as Habaek (the water god), Judong (the fire god), and others.

윤 미경

Mi-Kyung Yun

1

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

When Soah's impoverished, desperate village decides to sacrifice her to the Water God Habaek to end a long drought, they believe that drowning one beautiful girl will save their entire community and bring much-needed rain. Not only is Soah surprised to be *rescued* by the Water God—instead of killed—she never imagined she'd be a welcomed guest in Habaek's magical kingdom, where an exciting new life awaits her! Most surprising, however, is the Water God himself . . . and how very different he is from the monster Soah imagined.

Mi-Kyung Yun received the "Best New Artist" award in 2004 from the esteemed Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization. *Bride of the Water God*, with its enchanting, romantic storyline and breathtaking artwork, was Korea's top-selling 2006 *sunjeong* manhwa (similar to the *shojo* manga genre).

DARK HORSE MANHWA